

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02722 100928Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W

-----019939 111007Z /11

R 091748Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKKE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2722

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR AG MR ML

SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT: SAHARAN SUMMIT

REFS: ALGIERS 1389 AND RELATED CABLES FROM NEIGHBORING POSTS,
BAMA KO 2128

1. IN A MEETING LAST WEEK WITH SEYDOU TRAORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I MENTIONED THAT IN NEIGHBORING CAPITALS THERE WAS TALK OF A SECRET MEETING HELD IN BAMA KO BETWEEN BOUMEDIENE AND OULD DADDAH ON THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT, BUT THAT IT SEEMED NOT BE BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION HERE.

2. THE SECRETARY GENERAL RESPONDED THAT THE MEETING HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. THE MALIANS HAD, HOWEVER, IN FACT TRIED TO SET UP
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SUCH AN ENCOUNTER IN BAMA KO AND HAD DONE QUITE A LOT OF TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH IN THE PROCESS. BUT MALI HAD EVENTUALLY ABANDONED THE EFFORT BECAUSE NEITHER SIDE WOULD BUDGE AN INCH FROM ITS RIGID POSITION. BOTH KEPT SAYING, "YES, WE WISH TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, BUT...." IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MALI CONSIDERED ANY SECRET MEETING IN BAMA KO WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE AND THOUGHT IT BETTER NOT TO HAVE IT ALL INASMUCH AS A FAILURE WOULD REALLY

CLOSE THE DOORS TO NEGOTIATION. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE LONG-AWAITED SAHARAN SUMMIT.

3. THEN TWO DAYS LATER, THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE, SAID TO BE IN A CASUAL CONVERSATION CONCERNING HIS SCHEDULE THAT THE SAHARAN STATES WOULD MEET HERE FROM JUNE 24 TO JUNE 28, PROCEEDING FROM EXPERTS, TO FOREIGN MINISTERS, TO CHIEFS OF STATE.

4. SO WHEN I NEXT SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ON JUNE 6, I ASKED ABOUT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT. HE CONFIRMED THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE DATES CITED. I INQUIRED WHETHER ALL CHIEFS OF STATES WOULD ATTEND. HE REPLIED, "YES, IN PRINCIPLE".

5. COMMENT: MALIANS ARE NOT VERY FORTHCOMING.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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